



RTCA in Texas

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in Texas offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project partners to work collaboratively with local, state, tribal, and federal stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and timelines for projects.

Any community can apply for assistance. RTCA in Texas works with a wide range of entities including non-profit organizations, community-based groups, city and county governments, tribal governments, federal governments, and health partners throughout the state. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the RTCA program supports entities whose projects support community-based planning.



Green Lake Park, Calhoun County. Credit: Bill Harvey

In 2016, RTCA in Texas will work on a variety of projects including:

- **YMCA of Austin Camp Cypress** - creating an 85-acre urban camp with trails, fishing and boating access, camping areas, wildlife observation, environmental and wildlife educational facilities, and other improvements.
- **Lost Pines Nature Trail** - establishing a new or existing entity to protect and manage a 28-acre park on the Colorado River.
- **Lake Arlington Shoreline Trail** - developing a shoreline bicycle and pedestrian trail along the currently undeveloped western shore of Lake Arlington, with trail extensions to the south along Village Creek to the City of Kennedale.
- **West Fork Trinity River Paddling Trail** - creating a paddling trail in the heart of the Dallas-Fort Worth metro area with access points every 4-6 miles in order to enhance public recreational opportunities on the river.
- **Bolivar Peninsula Nature Trail** - creating the Bolivar Peninsula Nature Trail by pursuing physical improvements at ~15 nature trail sites, including signage, parking areas, trails, boardwalks, bird blinds, and other amenities.
- **Bulverde Oaks Public Access** - developing the 31-acre Bulverde Oaks property with public access facilities, including trails, nature viewing stations, outdoor classrooms, and other amenities.
- **Calhoun County Green Lake Park** - developing a 6,434 acre county park with trails, picnic and camping areas, water and fishing access, and other improvements.
- **LBJ State and National Park Trails** - developing trail routes and interpretive materials connecting the LBJ State Park visitor center with the LBJ Ranch and Texas White House Complex.
- **Brazos River Paddle Trail** - developing a 75-mile paddle trail along the Brazos River with multiple launch sites and several riverside parks and recreation facilities (city, county and state), including hike/bike trails linking the various communities along the river.

The RTCA office in Austin, Texas is part of the Intermountain Region. For more information about the RTCA program refer to: www.nps.gov/rtca, or for information about RTCA projects located in Texas contact:

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